



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 March 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the New York Times, when a New York woman died aboard an American Airlines flight last month, her death raised concerns among passengers about the level of medical treatment available at 30,000 feet. Medical emergencies happen on planes more often than people might think. (See item [13](#))
- The Associated Press reports police arrested more than a dozen people who crossed a barricade and blocked entrances at the Internal Revenue Service building Wednesday, the start of a day of protests marking the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. (See item [31](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 19, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Power surge leaves Las Vegas Strip in the dark.** The power has returned to four Las Vegas Strip casino resorts. A blown transformer near an intersection caused outages and left dozens of people stuck in elevators for more than an hour. A Clark County Fire Department spokesman said the transformer blew shortly before 8 p.m. Tuesday, leaving the hotel towers at Mandalay Bay, Luxor, Excalibur, and Four Seasons Hotel without power for 90 minutes. It was not immediately clear what caused the transformer failure.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23702339/>

2. *March 19, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Alaska House speaker warns tanker owners.** The Alaska House speaker is threatening to hold hearings on whether owners of the shipping company that hauls North Slope crude oil for BP are skimping on tanker maintenance. He recently sent letters to top executives of three firms that jointly own Alaska Tanker Co. (ATC), the operator of BP's troubled tanker fleet. While BP paid for the tankers, it owns only 25 percent of ATC. The other owners, at 37.5 percent apiece, are Keystone Shipping and Overseas Shipholding Group Inc. The speaker said he wrote the letters after ATC's president came to him and said he was having difficulties with the company owners and has not been given the resources and support necessary to maintain operations integrity. Since 2004, BP has upgraded its fleet with four new double-hull ships at a cost of \$250 million each. The new BP tankers, however, have been plagued with problems since they were launched into service, including cracked rudders, anchors that have fallen off during rough crossings of the North Pacific, a mooring post snapping off the deck of one ship while docking, and two known cases in which engine power or control was lost. The speaker made reference to these "mechanical integrity issues" in his letters, and said he has confidence in the ATC president's efforts to fix the problems.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/349443.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *March 19, KARE 11 Minneapolis* – (Wisconsin) **2 injured in WI chemical plant explosion.** A large explosion and fire at a chemical plant in Spooner, Wisconsin, has injured at least 2 people. Witnesses say several area fire departments are on the scene at the Cortec Corporation plant. The Spooner Health System tells KARE 11 the hospital is treating two people from the plant. Their conditions were not immediately made available. The Wisconsin State Patrol said it did not know the cause of the 8:43 a.m. explosion at the plant owned by St. Paul, Minnesota-based Cortec Corporation. The area around the plant has also been evacuated. The Washburn County Sheriff's office says Highway 63 in Spooner has been temporarily closed down. Traffic is being re-routed. Cortec vice president says she does not yet know how much damage has been done to the plant. She did not say how many employees were at the plant at the time of the explosion.

Source: http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=501917

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *March 19, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **FPL pulls plan for wind turbines at Blind Creek.** Florida Power & Light Co. officials announced Tuesday they would give up their idea of building three turbines at Blind Creek, public land just north of their St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. But they still plan to build six turbines on their Hutchinson Island land. None of the wind turbines would be closer than 2,510 feet to the nuclear plant or

the closest residential development, the Sands condominiums. St. Lucie County commissioners still must decide whether they will approve height variances and other permits to allow wind turbines to be built anywhere on the island. FPL officials say the St. Lucie site is ideal because of its higher wind speeds and because existing transmission lines from the nuclear plant could be used to transmit power. FPL's vice president of development said he hopes to get the go-ahead by fall.

Source:

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/tcoast/epaper/2008/03/19/m1a_slwin_dmill_0319.html

5. *March 19, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **Group ready to fight Bellefonte plant site.** A group opposing a proposed nuclear plant at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Bellefonte site has launched a campaign informing the public of the potential dangers of nuclear power. NuStart, a consortium of nuclear utilities that includes TVA, is seeking to build a twin Westinghouse-designed reactor-plant at Bellefonte. The plant would be located next to one TVA did not finish after investing about \$4.2 billion. In a news release Tuesday, Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability Team (BEST) said the potential for radioactive leaks and wastes and issues of security, high construction costs, and a reduced water supply are its main concerns. "Nuclear reactors are very expensive to build and operate safely," said a BEST founder. "The real threat of terrorism means that every nuclear reactor has the equivalent of a terrorist bull's eye painted on it." A TVA spokesman said the utility's nuclear plants "are very controlled and regulated." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold public meetings on the proposed plant on April 3.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/huntsvilletimes/index.ssf?/base/news/1205918159262841.xml&coll=1>

6. *March 19, Gloucester Daily Times* – (New Hampshire) **Nuclear watchdog group raises alarm over Seabrook plant.** A local watchdog group is raising new concerns about the safety of Seabrook Station after the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) found cracked weld alloys on water pressurizers similar to those at the New Hampshire nuclear plant. The latest discoveries come after the NRC last week noted the flaw and said eight plants – including Seabrook – may need to shut down in order to repair the problem. "We were looking at certain welds in the reactors. When the plants were built, they had to attach two different kinds of steel and used a certain alloy, which over time has shown under some conditions it can crack, and of course we don't want those cracks to affect safety," an NRC spokesman said. The C-10 group, which monitors radiological emissions from the plant, is asking why the NRC did not shut Seabrook down immediately, noting the problem is something well documented throughout the power industry. The NRC spokesman said, "The NRC has looked at the issue at a significant level of detail, and our staff is satisfied Seabrook is safe and can safely continue until the scheduled outage in a few weeks." NRC officials decided Thursday the welds of the pressurized water reactors could wait until Seabrook's spring shutdown before any modifications need to be made.

Source: http://www.gloucestertimes.com/punews/local_story_079065724.html

7. *March 18, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Sirens to blare near nuke plant.** Test sirens sounded near McGuire, North Carolina, Nuclear Plant Tuesday afternoon. Duke Energy has upgraded emergency sirens for the plant, and officials wanted to test them, a company spokesperson said. The test was planned around 3 p.m. and lasted for three minutes. The upgrades include new software for operating the sirens that is supposed to prevent interference from other systems and from atmospheric conditions. Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/541862.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 19, Strategy Page* – (National) **Record setting RC-135.** A U.S. Air Force RC-135 aircraft has set a record, spending over 50,000 hours in the air since it entered service in 1962. The main reason for all those hours in the air is that RC-135s are very good at picking up a wide variety of electronic signals and analyzing them quickly, and have been much in demand of late. Costing about \$4,000 an hour to operate, only 15 of them are in service. With current technology, it is believed that the RC-135s could be kept going until 2040. Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htintel/articles/20080319.aspx>
9. *March 18, Defense News* – (National) **Miniature radar developed for lightweight UAVs.** Utah company ImSAR has flown a tiny synthetic aperture radar in a small unmanned aerial vehicle in an effort to bring all-weather surveillance capabilities to long-loitering tactical UAVs. A two-pound “NanoSAR” radar flew in a ScanEagle UAV over an Oregon test range in January. The radar – weighing less than one-tenth as much as the smallest standard synthetic aperture radars – promises to give small UAVs the ability to peer through clouds, fog, rain, smoke, sand storms, and other conditions that dim the vision of optical and infrared sensors, said NanoSAR’s program manager at ImSAR. ImSAR was able to dramatically reduce the weight of its radar by using printed circuit board technology in place of the heavy metal tubes that serve as radio wave guides in standard synthetic aperture radars. Because of power limits dictated by the circuit boards and the small UAV’s restricted power supply, the NanoSAR has a relatively short range. It is intended for tactical use. The NanoSAR is good for spotting small vessels at sea despite fog or clouds, and spotting trucks, tanks, or other vehicles despite camouflage. Another benefit: The printed circuit technology makes the NanoSAR much cheaper than standard synthetic aperture radars. The cost difference is nearly as dramatic as the weight difference. The NanoSAR is expected to be in production before the end of 2008. Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3432969&c=AME&s=AIR>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 19, Kennebec Morning Sentinel & Blethen Maine Newspapers* – (National) **Card**

fraud spurs action. Hannaford this week announced that 1,800 unauthorized charges were made on customer cards from December 2007 through this month. The identities of 4.2 million customers were potentially exposed in the security breach. One customer had to pay \$10 to have two debit cards from Key Bank replaced, which had been the bank's normal reissuing policy. But a Key Bank spokesman said Tuesday that all clients, who feel "it is important to close their accounts for their safety" in light of the Hannaford breach, can now have the fee waived or refunded. By law, people who learn that their debit card has been used by someone else have 48 hours to report it, or they can be liable for \$500 or more of the defrauded charges. Customers hit by credit-card fraud, however, have their losses limited to \$50 per card, according to federal regulations. In most cases, victims are not permanently liable for unauthorized charges, according to the Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection. As of early Monday, there had been fraudulent activity on 1,800 unique credit or debit cards, according to a Hannaford spokeswoman. An updated number was not available on Tuesday. She recommended consumers discuss the identity theft with their individual banks or financial institutions. Because no names, addresses or Social Security numbers were stolen, consumers do not need to worry about traditional identity theft, in which a criminal uses personal data to open new lines of credit. However, the compromised information included everything necessary for any kind of credit card purchase, whether by phone, online or in person, she said.

Source: <http://morningsentinel.mainetoday.com/news/local/4881478.html>

11. *March 18, WFMY 2 Piedmont Triad* – (North Carolina) **Robo calls Target credit card customers to steal money, ID.** Overseas telemarketers are using credit card offers to steal customers' personal information. The North Carolina Attorney General's office warns that scammers are using robo calls that promise better rates on credit cards to try to steal identity and run up charges in victims' names. The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division has gotten hundreds of reports from North Carolina consumers about prerecorded telemarketing calls from outfits with generic sounding names like "account services," "customer accounts" or "card services." These robo calls tell consumers that they qualify for better rates on their credit cards and ask them to dial a one-digit number to be connected with a representative. People who respond get a sales pitch and are asked to share their credit card number and other personal financial information. The telemarketers have no intention of giving consumers better interest rates on their cards and instead use the information to commit identity theft and run up unwanted charges. More than 300 North Carolinians have reported these calls to the AG's office in the past year, including many people who had placed their telephone number on the Do Not Call Registry. The recorded calls tell consumers to press a certain number to be placed on the telemarketer's internal Do Not Call list, but even people who take that step continue to get the calls. The AG's office is investigating the scam which appears to originate overseas, probably using voice-over internet technology. The scammers have used several different "spoofed" caller ID numbers that do not belong to a particular telephone account. Telemarketers who answer those numbers have been trained to not give out information that would help investigators track down their operation.

Source:

http://www.digtriad.com/news/local_state/article.aspx?storyid=100082&catid=57

12. *March 18, MSNBC* – (National) **Borrowers beware of cyber scams.** With banks tightening credit, small business owners are scrambling to find other sources for loans to build their business or just to keep their heads above water. The national Better Business Bureau (BBB) released a warning of a scam preying on entrepreneurs who are turning to online networks to obtain loans. This is how the scam works, according to the BBB: companies offer loans no matter what a small business owner's credit rating is at supposedly great rates, but then the scammer asks for an upfront fee to secure the loan and never actually pays out the loan. Warning bell: people should not pay out money to borrow money. "There's been an increase in this kind of scam since October nationwide," says a BBB official, and she surmises it is because of the credit crunch. A lot of complaints, she says, are coming out of Connecticut where one firm in particular has had some issues. The company goes under the name Mediations LLC and has a Web site called www.mediationsonline.net. The vice president of marketplace operations for the Connecticut BBB says typically the complaints they see are consumers who get scammed by fly-by-night advance-fee-loan firms, but it is unusual to see this go business-to-business. The president of Mediations based in Hartford, Connecticut, says the fees are for appraisals and "interest reserves," and are legitimate. Bottom line, small business owners have to do their homework, get recommendations, and make sure they are working with reputable loan companies. Something that is described "as a contingency fee, or a fee to reserve a larger amount of money or a substantial amount of earnest money [commitment funds ahead of a down payment] bears the odor of scam," explains a spokesman for the U.S. Small Business Administration.
Source: <http://yourbiz.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/03/18/766200.aspx>

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Transportation Sector

13. *March 19, New York Times* – (National) **Airlines rethink in-flight medical care.** When a New York woman died aboard an American Airlines flight last month, her death raised concerns among passengers about the level of medical treatment available at 30,000 feet. Medical emergencies happen on planes more often than people might think. MedAire, a Phoenix company that provides cabin crews with medical advice, received 17,084 in-flight calls last year. Also, 649 planes were diverted for medical reasons, and 97 people died onboard, says the company. So how prepared are the airlines for medical emergencies? It depends on the carrier. The Federal Aviation Administration's rules are pretty thin: Planes are required to be equipped with a first-aid kit, a defibrillator and, for all but the smallest planes, an emergency medical kit that includes a stethoscope, needles, epinephrine, and an intravenous set. So, in the event that a medical crisis strikes miles up in the sky, passengers are generally at the mercy of who happens to be onboard. What happens, for example, if a passenger experiences cardiac arrest? These weighty decisions are ultimately left up to the pilot. Although the FAA does not require it, most US airlines contract with companies for medical counsel from doctors on the ground for flight attendants and pilots albeit remotely. Some go further: American has its own in-house doctors who provide medical direction to flight crews. But there is a

flip side to empowering flight crews to play the role of public health officials. Discrimination lawsuits, for example, have been threatened against airlines that ejected HIV passengers. It is also generally up to the crew to make the difficult decision about what to do with a body in the event of a death onboard. International carriers seem to be leading the way with in-flight medical care. Lufthansa tested a so-called telemedicine system that transmits a passenger's vital signs, including blood oxygen levels and electrocardiograms, to doctors on the ground using the Internet. And at least one airline, Singapore, actually has a makeshift morgue on its Airbus 340-500s, which fly its longest routes, including an 18 1/2-hour flight from LA to Singapore. But no matter how prepared an airline may be passengers with health concerns should consult with their physician to determine the risks involved in flying.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/travel/articles/2008/03/19/airlines_rethink_in_flight_medical_care/

14. *March 18, CanWest News Service* – (International) **Stowaways raise border security concerns.** Canada's commitment to port security came under question Tuesday after four stowaways from a cargo ship docked at Halifax Port nearly made their way on to a Montreal-bound train. A Canadian senator said Sunday's incident where four men - believed to be of North African origin - managed to elude authorities until they reached Truro, Nova Scotia, 100 kilometers away, was less than likely to impress Americans concerned about securing the borders. The senator warned it would only take something unwelcome coming off a container and making its way from Halifax into the United States to cause the border to shut down completely. "It could well cross Detroit-Windsor and end up in Chicago or a place like that and create great difficulties for us because the Americans would view that as being a Canadian weakness in the system" he said. The executive director of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities in Ottawa, called the security slip rare and added that since 9/11 almost \$1.5 billion dollars has been spent on port and marine security. Most of that money is directed to watching for any terrorist threats that might arrive in a container, he said. Some 2.5 million containers every year move through Canadian ports.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=55522156-e06a-43f8-9ecc-e08a07029fda&k=92082>

15. *March 18, CNN* – (National) **FAA looking to see if airlines made safety repairs.** The nation's air safety watchdog ordered its inspectors Tuesday to confirm that airlines are complying with federal rules after revelations that Southwest Airlines flew dozens of aircraft without certain mandatory inspections. The action comes after CNN, citing detailed congressional documents obtained in an investigation, revealed this month that Southwest Airlines flew at least 117 of its planes in violation of mandatory safety checks. In a letter to inspectors and the industry, the FAA's associate administrator for aviation safety wrote that "One carrier's noncompliance with [airworthiness directives] makes it necessary for us to validate our system for overseeing your management of this regulatory requirement." The order requires FAA inspectors to audit 10 airworthiness directives per fleet of planes by March 28. The order does not specify which airworthiness directives will be checked, because the directives vary by aircraft type. It

also requires inspectors to complete a review of 10 percent of all airworthiness directives applicable to a fleet by the end of June.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/03/18/air.safety/index.html>

16. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Rendell says I-95 woes show need for infrastructure money.** A Pennsylvania governor says the emergency repairs to Interstate 95 are just one example of the need for a “massive federal commitment” to the nation’s infrastructure. He says Pennsylvania’s infrastructure problem is so bad that as soon as the state repairs two bridges, three more are added to the structurally deficient list. The closure of a three-mile stretch of I-95 in Philadelphia forced those traveling the major northeast artery to detour onto local roads. The roadway was expected to remain closed until at least Wednesday night, and possibly as late as Friday.

Source: <http://www.wfmj.com/Global/story.asp?S=8036228>

17. *March 18, United Press International* – (International) **Countries to enhance airport security.** Officials from Slovakia, Hungary and Lithuania announced agreements to enhance security measures for future visa-free travel to the United States. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security entered into a memorandum of understanding with top officials from the three countries to establish enhancements to security under U.S. visa waiver program guidelines. The DHS secretary signed the security agreements with the Hungarian Ambassador, the Slovak minister of the interior, and the Lithuanian Ambassador, the Department of Homeland Security reported. The security enhancements outlined for visa-free travel to the United States include an electronic system of travel authorization for air passengers that will be established by the DHS for online passenger information to generate travel authorizations. Under the agreement, Slovakia, Hungary and Lithuania security officials will be required to allow air marshals on certain flights heading to the United States among other increased security measures including more efficient reporting of lost and stolen passports.

Source:

http://www.metimes.com/Security/2008/03/18/countries_to_enhance_airport_security/011f/

18. *March 18, KFOX 14 El Paso* – (Texas) **Plane makes emergency landing.** Some passengers at El Paso, Texas, International Airport had quite a scare Tuesday morning just after takeoff. The U.S. Airways flight 2937 to Phoenix, Arizona, departed at 8:45 a.m. but had to make a quick landing with its eighty-six passengers and four crew members. “The aircraft landed with the right main tire blown. Passengers were transported by shuttle to the terminal, and thankfully everyone is safe and there were no injuries,” said a spokeswoman for the airport. Fire units responded to the scene and all passengers and crew members were checked out by the fire units.

Source: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/15636551/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *March 18, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Fire Marshal warns of mail box explosives.**

The State Fire Marshal's office Tuesday issued a safety alert to Iowans after several explosive devices have been found in mail boxes in recent days. Authorities say they think most such incidents are caused by juvenile pranksters, but perpetrators will be prosecuted under felony charges anyway. The Fire Marshal's office said that if a suspicious device is found in a mail box, it should not be touched. The door to the mail box should be left open and the 911 emergency number should be called immediately.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080318/NEWS/80318031/-1/NEWS04>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *March 19, California Farm Bureau Federation* – (National) **Farm bill deadline extended.** Facing a few stumbling blocks on the road to completion, congressional leaders have elected to once again extend the deadline for reaching an agreement on writing the country's next farm bill. "While we would be willing to wait another month for a good bill, California's farmers and ranchers can't afford many more extensions beyond the April deadline," said the California Farm Bureau Federation National Affairs Division director of farm policy. Lawmakers failed to come up with new farm bill legislation by the March 15 deadline and as a result the Senate and the House of Representatives last week voted for an extension to April 18. The 2002 farm bill (officially titled the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) authorizes many U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, including farm price and income support programs. New legislation must now be enacted prior to the 2002 bill's new expiration in April. In a statement issued last week, President Bush indicated that he will sign the new extension, but asked for at least a one-year extension if a new bill is not completed by the April 18 deadline. He added that he would veto any final farm bill that includes a tax increase or does not include reform.

Source:

<http://www.cfbf.com/agalert/AgAlertStory.cfm?ID=1006&ck=9246444D94F081E3549803B928260F56>

21. *March 19, California Farm Bureau Federation* – (California) **Downsizing is having an impact on agriculture's aerial wing.** The highly specialized pilots of agricultural aircraft provide an important service to California's \$31.4 billion agricultural economy by efficiently applying seed and fertilizer and controlling pest infestations. Each year, California's agricultural pilots log more than 100,000 hours in flight time while maintaining a high level of safety and compliance with regulations. In 1990, the number of licensed pilots was estimated at about 1,200. Today that figure has dropped to about 411, said the president of the California Agricultural Aircraft Association. She attributes part of this reduction to an aging pilot population and a lack of young pilots entering the industry. "There are pilots interested in becoming ag pilots, but they don't have the background or the skill set," she said. Over the years, advancements in agricultural aircraft technology and consolidation of many of the smaller agricultural flying service companies have resulted in fewer pilots being recruited. Costs tied to more expensive

and advanced machinery are also driving pilots away, she said: “It costs less to insure a pilot flying a \$75,000 plane with a radial engine than a pilot flying a more modern plane \$750,000 plane with a turbine engine.”

Source:

<http://www.cfbf.com/agalert/AgAlertStory.cfm?ID=1004&ck=FED33392D3A48AA149A87A38B875BA4A>

22. *March 19, WTVG 13 Toledo* – (Ohio; National) **Fuel prices hit farmers hard.** The price of fuel affects how farmers do business. Industry experts say the typical Ohio farmer will spend about thirty percent more money this year on diesel fuel. AG Credit’s assistant vice-president says not only is the cost of fuel up but the cost of nearly everything farmers need is on the rise. “Fertilizer costs up to 50 to 60 percent. Their seed costs up probably 25 percent.”

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvg/story?section=news/local&id=6028486>

23. *March 18, Business Journal of Phoenix* – (California; International) **California joins states in international cattle trade dispute.** California is the latest of several border states to enter an international dispute surrounding cattle trade. State officials announced Friday afternoon that California would join Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in urging U.S. exporting facilities to turn away Mexico-bound Canadian cattle. California’s decision follows an order issued March 4 by the Texas Department of Agriculture that would stop state-operated exporting facilities from allowing Canadian cattle to pass through to Mexico. A recent agreement between Canada and Mexico prompted the trade dispute, Texas’ agriculture commissioner said when he issued the order. Earlier this month, Canadian and Mexican officials signed an agreement that allows Canada to trade breeding cattle less than 30 months old. But Mexico prohibits imports of U.S. breeding cattle, with the exception of dairy heifers under the age of 24 months. Mexico enacted the embargo on U.S. cattle in 2003 after a Canadian-born cow in Washington state was found to have mad cow disease. Mexico is a critical market for cattle producers in the Southwest, said a representative of the Arizona Cattlemen’s Association. The U.S. exports about 2.2 million metric tons of beef to Mexico each year, he said, and Mexican producers also imported live breeding stock prior to 2003 to increase their herd quality.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/03/17/daily21.html>

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Water Sector

24. *March 18, Denver Business Journal* – (Colorado) **Water group wants to address oil shale plan for Colorado.** The two biggest natural resource industries in Colorado could be setting up for a battle over the state’s future. The Front Range Water Council – made up of the utilities that supply water the people who live on the Front Range – has asked the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to extend its deadline for comments on a draft plan for developing oil shale on Colorado’s Western Slope. The draft plan covers 1.9 million acres owned by the federal government in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. The council said it learned in February of the BLM’s draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on oil shale and tar sand development. “A preliminary reading

of the PEIS has raised our level of concern that the development of oil shale in the state could significantly affect the Council's ability to serve its existing customers and the future customers projected to arrive on the Front Range of Colorado," the letter said. Most U.S. oil shale resources are found in the Green River Formation of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The federally owned portion of this resource is more than 50 times the country's proven conventional oil reserves and nearly five times the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia, according to the BLM. However, some worry that oil shale development could also suck up all the water that is not currently allocated in the Colorado River.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2008/03/17/daily27.html>

25. *March 18, U.S. Geological Survey* – (Oregon) **USGS study finds pesticides in the Lower Clackamas River mainstem and tributaries, and in samples of drinking water.** A 2000-2005 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study found a variety of pesticides in water samples from the lower Clackamas River mainstem and tributaries, along with trace-level detections of pesticides in treated drinking-water samples collected from a drinking-water treatment plant that uses the river as a raw-water source, according to a recently released USGS report. All of the detections in drinking water were, however, far below existing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking-water standards and other human health benchmarks. A total of 63 pesticide compounds were detected in 119 water samples collected during storm and non-storm conditions using low-level detection methods. More pesticides were detected in the tributaries than in the Clackamas River mainstem, and the fewest were detected in treated drinking water. One or more of 15 pesticides were detected in nine of 15 samples of drinking water. Most of the compounds analyzed for, however, were not detected – 98 percent of the 1,790 individual pesticide analyses of finished drinking water were below laboratory method detection levels.

Source: http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1895&from=rss_home

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *March 18, Reuters* – (National) **Hospital tests for “superbug” effective in U.S. study.** Testing every hospital patient to find and treat carriers of drug-resistant bacteria can curtail outbreaks of dangerous infections, according to a study released on Monday, but some researchers questioned whether universal screening is the solution to the problem. The authors of the four-year study conducted in three suburban Chicago hospitals concluded that universal patient screening for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) reduced infection rates by 70 percent. But another researcher who wrote an editorial accompanying the study, which was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, said credit for fewer illnesses could be due to better hand-washing and cleaning practices by hospital staff. The study compared MRSA infection rates when no screening protocol was in place, to when only intensive care unit patients were tested, and to when nearly all patients were screened over a 21-month period. Without the screening there were nearly nine new infections per 10,000 days of patient care. After universal testing was put in place, infections declined to about four per 10,000 patient-

days.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/BROKER/idUSN1762052920080318?sp=true>

27. *March 18, Reuters* – (National) **Data shows more deaths with Medtronic's AneuRx: FDA.** New data point to greater deaths in patients receiving Medtronic Inc's AneuRx stent graft system, which treats artery bulges in the abdomen, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Tuesday. "We now calculate, based on the latest information supplied by Medtronic, a mortality rate associated with the initial surgery of 2.3 percent instead of the 1.5 percent originally calculated for the AneuRx patients," the FDA said. AneuRx is used to treat abdominal aortic aneurysm or AAA, a life threatening condition in which the aortic artery bulges and can burst – often without prior symptoms. About 1.2 million Americans have such a bulge, according to Medtronic, but only 15 percent are diagnosed and half are never treated. AneuRx is part of Medtronic's smallest of four cardiovascular units, according to a Medtronic spokesman, who said in an e-mail that the company's own analysis showed its stent graft "performs better compared to open surgery in late AAA-related deaths." The FDA said its results differ from an update provided by the company because the agency looked at a group of patients who were not high risk and received a more flexible version of the stent graft. The agency offered its analysis in a statement dated March 17, but released on Tuesday.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080318/us_nm/medtronic_aneurx_dc;_ylt=AmMUQUubmuapSHAswzib2ukWIr0F

28. *March 18, National Terror Alert Response Center* – (California) **FBI responds to suspicious activity near radioactive materials.** Sheriff's deputies, HazMat units and FBI agents responded to a suspicious activity call Friday afternoon at MannKind Corp. in Valencia, California. MannKind is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of therapeutic products for diseases such as diabetes and cancer. Police said that a source within the company called after noticing two employees of the firm walking around and looking closely at a machine that uses radioactive materials. "With the possibility of those type of materials being used for terrorist purposes, they called us in to investigate," a police spokesman said. "Since the FBI is the expert in that area, they're inside talking with the employees."

Source: <http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2008/03/18/fbi-responds-to-suspicious-activity-near-radioactive-materials-california/>

29. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colorado police kill man who claimed to have detonator on oxygen tank.** In Colorado, a man in a wheelchair at a hospital who claimed his oxygen tank had a detonator was fatally shot by police after a four-hour standoff. The man got out of the wheelchair during the standoff, leading officers to fire, a police spokeswoman said. Police used a robot to remove a red bag found in Baughman's possession, and they took it to a nearby park and detonated it. They had not determined what it was as of Monday night. Five emergency patients were moved to another part of the emergency room, and the 200-bed hospital was locked down. The lockdown was lifted Monday afternoon, but the vestibule, lobby, and part of the emergency room remained closed while police investigated.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,338592,00.html>

30. *March 17, Reuters Health* – (National) **Symptoms of West Nile virus infection may persist.** Infection with mosquito-borne West Nile virus (WNV) can result in significant long-term problems, such as mental and functional impairment, as well as depression, according to data from an ongoing study funded by the National Institutes of Health presented Monday at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases in Atlanta. University of Texas Health Science Center presented data from 108 patients infected with WNV in the Houston area in 2002. Thus far, the patients have been evaluated every six months for up to five years. 50 percent presented with encephalitis, 30 percent with meningitis, and 20 percent with uncomplicated fever. Persistent symptoms from WNV infection were reported by roughly 60 percent of the group one year after infection, she reported. Five years after infection, 42 percent of subjects still had symptoms related to WNV. The most commonly reported symptoms include fatigue, weakness, depression, personality changes, difficulty walking, memory deficits, and blurred vision.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080317/hl_nm/west_nile_virus_dc;_ylt=AiPCUn3hEA3s88RUmgPtHmiWSbYF

Government Facilities Sector

31. *March 19, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Iraq war protesters arrested at IRS.** Police arrested more than a dozen people who crossed a barricade and blocked entrances at the Internal Revenue Service building Wednesday, the start of a day of protests marking the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Protesters blocked the main entrance for a time, but no federal workers appeared to be trying to use those doors. Police detained 13 people who sat down at a side entrance. The demonstrators said they were focusing on the IRS because it gathers taxes that are used to fund the war. Anti-war protests and vigils were planned throughout the day around the nation.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080319/ap_on_re_us/iraq_war_protests;_ylt=ArKUHy2.R6cTJESm9949uKFG2ocA

32. *March 18, CNN* – (International) **13 hurt in Yemen attack; U.S. Embassy thought target.** The American Embassy in Yemen was the target of a mortar attack Tuesday, the U.S. State Department said, contradicting a suggestion from the Yemeni government the attack targeted a school where 13 were injured. “Our conversations in Yemen have led us to the conclusion that the attack was directed against our embassy,” according to a statement released Tuesday evening. “Since this is an ongoing investigation, we are not going to talk about the specifics of the case.” Earlier, a source with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding Tuesday’s mortar attack in the capital city of San’a – but unauthorized to speak on the record – told CNN there was a “clear and strong indication” the U.S. embassy was targeted. Yemen’s ambassador to the U.S. said the attack was “a private dispute.” However, CNN’s source said the Yemeni government is

calling this a private dispute to “distract us” from their security “failure.” The source said Yemeni investigators are also looking at this as a terrorist attack and are “energetically pursuing that line of thought. That reflects the seriousness in which they approach it.” Yemeni soldiers guarding the embassy were hurt in the attack. The U.S. Embassy will be closed Wednesday.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meast/03/18/yemen.blast/index.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *March 19, WHAM 13 Rochester* – (New York) **Emergency care investigation.** New York State and Monroe County health departments are now investigating why some ambulances had to wait hours at some Rochester hospital emergency room doors last week. For a number of reasons, ambulances ended up sitting at hospital doors for four hours or more last Monday. A representative of Monroe Ambulance said, “Monday, quite honestly, we ran out of resources and if there had been a catastrophic event, we really would’ve had difficulty and that is a major concern and one that has sparked a lot of discussion in our community.” Flu season is taking some of the blame, but health officials know there is more to this problem. For months now, most local hospitals have been operating at capacity or in official vernacular “code red.” While ambulances backed up, an alert from an incoming airplane added to the chaos. That airplane alert turned out to be nothing, but EMS crews fear what could happen if the situation arises again.
Source: http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=b919b455-cce2-4070-9de1-e453078d46a5
34. *March 19, Student Life* – (Missouri) **University tests disaster readiness with faux anthrax attack.** Washington University administrators, St. Louis Department of Health officials, and more than 200 campus volunteers collaborated in a public health drill Tuesday that simulated the distribution of medication at Mallinckrodt in the event of a terrorist anthrax attack, and tested the University’s emergency text-message system. During the drill, faculty and staff were given an algorithm that helped them to identify symptoms in the volunteers and dispense medication to them. In a real-life scenario, qualified medical personnel would oversee the distributors. The drill was held at the University because it is considered to be a place where mass mobility could be limited in the event of a disaster. Elsewhere in St. Louis, people showing symptoms of an epidemic would go to open public points of distribution, such as high schools, community centers, and government sites. Two observers from the St. Louis Department of Health were also present at the drill to give the University feedback on its response.
Source: <http://media.www.studlife.com/media/storage/paper337/news/2008/03/19/News/University.Tests.Disaster.Readiness.With.Faux.Anthrax.Attack-3274863.shtml>
35. *March 18, Telegraph* – (Illinois) **LCCC hosts bioterrorism drill.** Volunteers took “patient” information and directed participants through a one-hour mock-emergency response clinic Tuesday at Lewis and Clark Community College. They dispensed M&M

candies in place of medication that would be given out in a real emergency and directed participants to information stations where they could learn more about their “medication” and about the mock-emergency they faced – a bioterrorism attack involving anthrax. The exercise, meant to test deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile, was held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The department tries to have these drills about once per year to test their emergency response capabilities for mass distribution of medications in a timely, organized manner. Each is different and deals with a different emergency.

Source:

http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/dispensed_12242_article.html/hour_participants.html

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Information Technology

36. *March 19, Computerworld* – (National) **Apple issues mega-monster security update.**

Apple Inc. Tuesday issued a record-breaking security update that patched nearly 90 vulnerabilities in both its own code and the third-party applications it bundles with its Tiger and Leopard operating systems. Security Update 2008-002 plugged 87 holes in the client and server editions of Mac OS X 10.4 and Mac OS 10.5. This single update’s total patch count nearly equaled half of all the fixes Apple released in 2007, and easily dwarfed the biggest updates that year, both which saw 40 or more bugs patched. Apple also updated its Safari browser for both Mac and Windows, patching 13 vulnerabilities. The much larger security roll-up fixed flaws in 30 different applications or operating system components in Mac OS X, from AFP Client and Apache to the Wiki Server and X11, the Mac’s version of the X Window System.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9069538&intsrc=hm_list

37. *March 19, IDG News Service* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania pulls plug on voter site after data leak.** With voting in Pennsylvania’s presidential primary just a month away, the state was forced to pull the plug on a voter registration Web site Tuesday after it was found to be exposing sensitive data about voters in the state. The problem lay in an online voter registration application form that was designed to simplify the task of registering to vote. State residents used it to enter their information on the Web site, which then generated a printable form that could be mailed to state election officials. Pennsylvania’s Department of State disabled the registration form late Tuesday after being informed of the vulnerability by IDG News Service. Because of a Web programming error, the Web site was allowing anyone on the Internet to view the forms, which contained data such as the voter’s name, date of birth, driver’s license number, and political party affiliation. On some forms, the last four digits of Social Security numbers could also be seen. The flaw was first reported by a reader of Digg.com, who stumbled upon the bug after filling out a voter registration form. The bug did not expose all registration data – just the information supplied by those who used the Web site’s online form. About 30,000 voter registration records appeared to be available on the site.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=spam_malware_and_vulnerabilities&articleId=9069578&taxonomyId=85

38. *March 19, Financial Times* – (National) **Beware: Printing can be data security's Achilles Heel.** Since January 2005, more than 218 million records involving sensitive personal information belonging to U.S. citizens have been exposed by security breaches. Drill down into the data, collected by U.S. lobbying group the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, however, and it is clear that it is not only electronic media that are to blame. Last year, more than a dozen serious data protection breaches resulted not from the loss of a laptop, a disk, or memory drive, but from printed data. Some of the breaches resulted from errors in bulk or commercial printing houses, such as inadvertently printing customers' social security numbers on envelopes or labels. But others were the result of employees printing sensitive data, which was subsequently lost or stolen - often because the paperwork was in the same bag or case as a laptop targeted by thieves. The true number of cases of data loss from paper documents could be far greater.
Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f05e51e8-f557-11dc-a21b-000077b07658.html>
39. *March 19, ZDNet UK* – (International) **RSA sees increase in fast-flux botnets.** Security vendor RSA has reported that it has seen an increase in the use of sophisticated techniques that hide command-and-control servers in networks of compromised computers. However, University of Cambridge researchers have disputed the claim, saying fast-flux use has remained constant over the past year. Fast-flux is a DNS technique that distributes command-and-control by constantly reallocating the servers controlling peer-to-peer botnets. It makes those servers difficult to identify and shut down, as they "move" around the network. Fast-flux can also be associated with the allocation of proxy servers to hide static command-and-control servers in botnets. RSA said on Monday that the technique, widely reported as being used by the controllers of the Storm botnet, is now being used by at least three other compromised networks. RSA refused to name the botnets or the gangs involved, and said naming them would compromise its surveillance.
Source: <http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/security/0,39044215,62039095,00.htm>
40. *March 18, Computer Weekly* – (National) **Cyber Storm 2 exercise reveals security preparedness.** Cyber Storm II, the world's largest international cyber security exercise so far, ended on March 15. Undoubtedly, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-sponsored event will report it as a resounding success and learning experience in its final report due in late summer. The exercise simulated a coordinated cyber attack on information technology, communications, chemical, and transportation systems and assets. It simulated a crash of the US and international telephone system, which in turn caused problems for top level domains such as .com, .net, and .gov. Crisis managers had to identify, evaluate, and respond to more than 1,800 malware incidents. These included botnet, phishing, and denial of service attacks. Some were "white noise." These were relatively harmless events designed to mask or confuse more serious attacks on the systems. Cyber security is one of four priorities at DHS, which is responsible for

securing the government's IT and critical national infrastructure. Federal departments use an intrusion detection system called Einstein, as well as US-Cert, a 24x7 public-private operation that monitors and defends against malware attacks. DHS also plans to cut the number of internet access points that link to federal systems from about 4,000 to 50 to make the federal IT system easier to guard.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2008/03/18/229909/cyber-storm-2-exercise-reveals-security-preparedness.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

41. *March 19, Reuters* – (National) **Google sees surge in Web use on mobile phones.**

Google has seen an acceleration of Internet activity among mobile phone users in recent months since the company has introduced faster Web services on selected phone models, fueling confidence the mobile Internet era is at hand, the company said on Tuesday. Early evidence showing sharp increases in Internet usage on phones, not just computers, has emerged from services Google has begun offering in recent months on Blackberry e-mail phones, Nokia devices for multimedia picture and video creators and business professionals and the Apple iPhone, the world's top Web search company said. Google made the pronouncement as it introduced a new software download for mobile phones running Microsoft Corp's Windows Mobile software that conveniently positions a Google Web search window on the home screen of such phones. The software shortcuts the time it takes for people to perform Web searches on Google by eliminating initial search steps of finding a Web browser on the phone, opening the browser, waiting for network access, and getting to Google.com. By making a Google search box more convenient, mobile phone users have begun using the Internet more, the company said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080319/wr_nm/google_mobile_dc;_ylt=AgxMIVSbRsdKquDIjfiubC767rEF

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Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *March 19, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Man held after bomb is found in home.** A disabled man, whom police describe as a model citizen, was accused yesterday of building a powerful improvised explosive device that could have turned his apartment into a killing zone, authorities said. Weymouth, Massachusetts, police arrested the man Monday night when they discovered the bomb in the living room of his first-floor

apartment at Avalon Ledges complex. “He definitely knew about bombs; he knew what he was doing. What purpose he had in constructing this, we don’t know,” said a police official. The suspect came to the attention of authorities Sunday night, when a KeySpan employee went to shut off gas to his apartment for nonpayment and found it filled with gas, authorities said. A KeySpan worker returned Monday night and was greeted by the man wearing a semiautomatic handgun around his waist. Police said they also found a second handgun, a machine gun, and a high-capacity magazine, more than 100 rounds of ammunition and three disarmed hand grenades. Several small explosives, which authorities said were essentially sticks of dynamite, were also found. In court, the Assistant Norfolk District Attorney said that in addition to the weaponry, the man left a suicide note and \$23,000 in his apartment. The man’s landlord moved to evict him in 2005, saying he had stayed beyond the expiration of his lease. The suspect accused the company of discriminating against him and filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/03/19/man_held_after_bomb_is_found_in_home/

43. *March 18, WSBTV 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Tornado caused downtown Atlanta hotel to shift.** It felt like the earth moved Friday night for hundreds of guests at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The tornado that left rubble scattered across downtown and other neighborhoods was so powerful it caused the hotel, one of the world’s tallest, to shift. About 175 windows shattered and will be covered with plywood until the glass can be repaired. The plywood will be painted black so it blends in with the hotel. Glass in the huge atrium that hovers over the lobby cracked and will have to be replaced. So will at least 100 panes in the panels that enclose the elevators clinging to the outside of the hotel and give guests a stomach-dropping ride. Winds at the upper level of the hotel were so strong on Tuesday, workers making repairs inside the building were wearing safety harnesses so they would not be sucked out the broken windows. “Overall we fared very well, no injuries and certainly no fatalities; so we’re real blessed,” said the general manager of the hotel.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/tornado/15633673/detail.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

44. *March 19, Garden Island* – (Hawaii) **Structural safety of Ka Loko Dam at issue.** Following 15 months since it last inspected the Ka Loko Reservoir Dam, the state is waiting until next Friday to decide whether its engineers will conduct a second structural assessment. The last time the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) inspected the dam was October 10, 2006, when state engineers conducted phase I of its

post-breach review. The state is charged with the task of inspecting the dam, which breached March 14, 2006. An attorney for the Ka Loko Reservoir owner had asked the Board of Land and Natural Resources in February to hold off on using DLNR engineers to inspect the dam, stating his client is being criminally investigated by the Attorney General's office. According to the Ka Loko Report, authored by the deputy attorney general, one of the reasons for the breach was because it had not been consistently inspected by the DLNR, despite Hawaii law requiring it be done once every five years. Other reasons for the breach, according to the report, were grading violations that could have put the structural integrity of the dam in jeopardy, and a filled-in emergency spillway, which left burgeoning water no place to go, causing the dam to overtop.

Source:

<http://www.kauaiworld.com/articles/2008/03/19/news/news01.txt>

45. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Toxic mud is being removed in Montana.**

Every evening, a 45-car train rumbles away from the Clark Fork River, loaded with tons of contaminated mud from behind an old dam. Workers are removing 2.2 million cubic yards of the muck – and dismantling the 101-year-old Milltown Dam – in Montana. For decades, metals released into the river by mining and ore-processing in the Butte area collected downstream in the sediment behind the hydroelectric dam, where the toxins are now threatening fish and polluting drinking water in the ground below. After the removal of the dam, not only will the river water be cleaner, bull trout and other fish will be able to swim more freely.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080318/ap_on_re_us/mud_train;_ylt=AtqW.u2aeJiH4JqO4g1FQ_FG2ocA

46. *March 18, WDTV 5 Bridgeport* – (West Virginia) **Work on the Tygart Dam.** A major service gate project is in the works on the Tygart Dam in West Virginia. Seven of the dam's service gates are still the originals and have been in place for 70 years. One of the gates has already been replaced and now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is set to award a contract for the remaining seven that have suffered wear, tear, and erosion over the years. Construction should start in the spring or summer, and only one or two gates will be replaced at a time so the dam can continue with daily activity and flood control.

Source:

<http://www.wdtv.com/news/local/16790101.html>

47. *March 18, Morning Sentinel* – (Maine) **Winslow Dam breach OK'd.** FPL Energy appears to have cleared the final hurdle to its plan to breach Fort Halifax Dam this summer. The Winslow Planning Board in a unanimous vote Monday night approved the energy company's application to remove a portion of the 100-year-old hydroelectric facility on the Sebasticook River. That approval comes after federal and state regulators signed off on the plan. The vote is not closed officially until planners sign the final document. Planners approved the application with numerous conditions, including requirements that FPL Energy monitor the stability of the south side of the riverbank. That neighborhood has been identified as the area most in jeopardy of a landslide or serious erosion when the dam is breached. A consultant hired by the town recommended

that households most in danger evacuate their homes for up to two days when removal begins. FPL Energy has agreed to pay those families \$250 per day to cover evacuation expenses.

Source:

<http://morningsentinel.maintoday.com/news/local/4879576.html>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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